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(54) Flame retardant thermoplastic composition containing an impact-resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer.

(57) A flame-retardant thermoplastic composition comprising an impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer, an aromatic polycarbonate, red phosphorus and, optionally, a phosphorus containing organic compound and an anti-dripping agent.

The composition can further contain a grafted polymer consisting of an elastomeric core having a Tg lower than 10 °C and containing chains of vinyl aromatic monomers grafted thereon.

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The present invention relates to a flame retardant thermoplastic composition based on an impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer.

More in particular, the present invention relates to a flame retardant thermoplastic composition based on an impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer having excellent flow properties, satisfactory stability in the operating conditions and free from the formation of toxic combustion products.

Moulding thermoplastic compositions comprising an impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer, consisting of a vinyl aromatic monomer, an acrylic monomer and a rubber, and an engineering polymer, are known on the market and described, for example, in Italian Patent No. 1,000,431 and US Patent Nos. 4,526,926; 4,624,986 and 4,906,689.

10 Moulding compositions are also known comprising an impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer of the above defined type, an engineering polymer and a grafted polymer consisting of an elastomer core having a second order glass transition temperature (T_g) lower than 10 C and containing vinyl monomer chains grafted thereon. These compositions are disclosed by published European Patent Application Nos. 216,065 and 379,039.

15 These compositions find the use in numerous technical fields owing to their optimal combination of mechanical, chemical-physical and thermal properties.

A disadvantage, however, of these compositions is that they burn very easily and spread fire, therefore, they do not pass the customary fire test, for example the vertical UL 94 V fire tests (Underwriters Laboratory Bulletin 94). This disadvantage enormously limits the fields of application of such compositions.

20 In order to reduce or inhibit the flammability of these compositions it is common practice to incorporate certain additives, generally known as flame-retardant, into the composition. Halogenated compound and, particularly, bromine compounds such as pentabromodiphenyl, pentabromodiphenyl-ether, decabromodiphenyl oxide, ethylene-bis-tetrabromophthalimide, octabromodiphenyl and so on are widely used for this purpose.

25 According to DE-PS 2,259,656, DE-OS 3,329,548 and DE-OS 2,329,546, halogen-containing polycarbonates may even be mixed with ABS to reduce the flammability thereof. However, these blends only acquire a rating of at least V2 in the UL 94 test by the addition of antimony trioxide and a halogen compound or by the use of very large quantities of halogen compound.

30 The quantities of halogen used are preferably as small as possible in order to reduce the drawbacks such as, for example, corrosion of metallic parts, development of toxic flue gas. In addition, large quantities of halogen have an adverse effect upon the properties of the compositions. In fact, a substantial decrease in the impact strength, elongation and aging-resistance, as well as in the processability and in the working stability, can be observed in the compositions to which flame-retardant, halogen-containing agents have been added.

35 Furthermore, some of these flame-retardant agents develop toxic substances during the processing and/or combustion, as described in CHEMOSPHERE - Vol. 15 No. 5 pages 649 - 652, 1989 and Vo. 18 - No. 1-6 pages 1235-1242, 1989.

Polymeric compositions which comprise an aromatic polycarbonate, an impact resistant vinyl aromatic polymer, for example ABS, and a flame-retardant are known, for example, from EP-A-0,174,493. According 40 to this patent an organic monophosphate, for example, triphenyl phosphate, tricresyl phosphate, diphenylcresyl phosphate, and the like, is used as a flame-retardant. The known polymeric compositions, moreover, must comprise a halogen compound and a tetrafluoroethylene polymer which must be applied in a very special manner. The organic monophosphates tend to migrate to the surface during the process of transformation causing the so-called blooming.

45 Furthermore, in order to obtain a V-0 rating, according to UL-94 test, it is necessary to use the monophosphate either in combination with other flame retardants or in relative high concentrations which cause a drastic decrease of the heat resistance of the compositions.

Object of the present invention is to provide a flame-retardant composition based on an impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer and an aromatic polycarbonate which have not the above mentioned drawbacks.

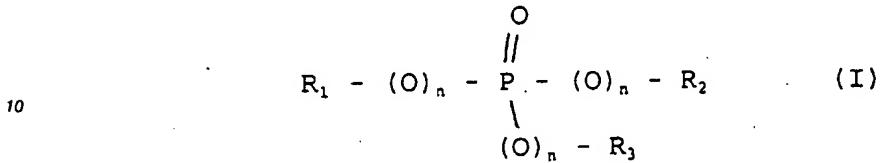
50 More particularly, object of the present invention is to provide a flame-retardant halogen-free composition comprising an impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer and a polycarbonate, classifiable under VO rating according to the UL 94 test, which does not require the use of high concentrations of flame retardant agents and does not exhibit the phenomenon of the blooming.

According to the present invention, these and other objects are achieved by using red phosphorus as 55 flameproofing agent.

Subject matter of the present invention is, therefore, a flame retardant composition comprising:

(A) from 70 to 5 parts by weight of an impact resistant, halogen free, vinyl aromatic copolymer, consisting of a vinyl aromatic monomer, an acrylic monomer and a rubber;

- (B) from 30 to 95 parts by weight of a halogen free aromatic polycarbonate;
 (C) from 0.1 to 10 parts by weight, with respect to 100 parts by weight of the mixture of the two (A) and
 (B) resins, of red phosphorus;
 (D) from 0 to 15 parts by weight, with respect to 100 parts by weight of the mixture of the two (A) and
 (B) resins, of a phosphorus containing organic compound of the formula:



wherein R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are, independently from each other, an alkyl radical containing from 1 to 8 carbon atoms or an aryl radical or an optionally alkyl-substituted aryl radical containing from 6 to 20 carbon atoms, and n represents 0 or 1; and,
 (E) optionally, an anti-dripping agent.

The compositions of the present invention can be also contain a grafted polymer consisting of an elastomeric core having a glass transition temperature of the second order lower than 10°C and containing chains of vinyl aromatic monomers grafted thereon, when particular mechanical properties, especially in the welding zones of injection flows, are required.

In the composition of the present invention, the impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer preferably ranges from 10 to 50% by weight and, correspondingly, the aromatic polycarbonate ranges from 90 to 50% by weight.

The amounts of the red phosphorus and, optionally, of the phosphorus containing organic compound of formula (I) are, generally, correlated with those of the polycarbonate (B), in that these amounts are inversely proportional to those of the polycarbonate. Generally, it is preferred that the quantities of the total phosphorus, given by the sum of the phosphorus both in the free status and in the combined form, be not higher than 10 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the mixture of the two (A) and (B) resins.

The quantity of anti-dripping agent, when present, is generally very small compared to that of the other components. Quantities of anti-dripping agent ranging from 0.05 to 1 part, with respect to 100 parts of (A) + (B), can be used.

According to the present invention, a preferred flame-retardant, halogen free, thermoplastic composition (V0 according to UL 94 test), with good flow properties, a satisfactory operating stability, even at high temperatures, and without the formation of toxic combustion products, includes:

- (A) from 10 to 50% by weight of a halogen free impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer;
- (B) from 90 to 50% by weight of a halogen free polycarbonate;
- (C) from 0.1 to 7 parts by weight, with respect to 100 parts by weight of (A) + (B), of red phosphorus;
- (D) optionally, from 5 to 15 parts by weight, with respect to 100 parts by weight of (A) + (B), of phosphorus containing organic compound of general formula (I);
- (E) optionally, from 0.05 to 1 part by weight, with respect to 100 parts by weight of (A) + (B) of an anti-dripping agent.

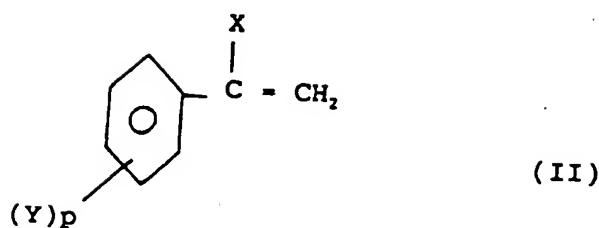
The impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer (A), used in the thermoplastic composition of the present invention, can be:

- (A.1) an impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer containing from 2 to 35% by weight of an acrylic monomer, a dienic rubber in an amount not higher than 20% by weight and a vinyl aromatic monomer; or
- (A.2) an impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer containing from 2 to 35 % by weight of an acrylic monomer, from 5 to 50% by weight of an olefinic elastomer and from 93 to 15% by weight of a vinyl aromatic monomer; the sum of these monomers being equal to 100% by weight.

Preferably, the vinyl aromatic polymer (A.2) comprises from 2 to 35% by weight of an acrylic monomer, from 15 to 30% by weight of an olefinic elastomer and from 35 to 83% by weight of a vinyl aromatic monomer.

The term vinyl aromatic monomer, whenever used in the present description and claims, includes the ethylenically unsaturated compounds having the general formula:

5



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wherein;

X represents hydrogen or an alkyl radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

p is zero or an integer from 1 to 5; and

Y represents alkyl radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

15 Examples of vinyl aromatic monomers having the above-reported general formula are: styrene; methyl-styrene; styrenes alkylated in the nucleus and the corresponding alpha-methyl-styrenes such as ortho and para-methyl-styrenes, ortho and para-ethyl-styrenes; ortho- and para-methyl-alpha-methyl-styrenes, etc.

These monomers can be used individually or in admixture between them or with other copolymerizable ethylenically unsaturated co-monomers such as, for example, maleic anhydride.

20 Styrene is particularly preferred.

By acrylic monomer, it is meant, at first place and preferably, acrylonitrile; although other acrylic monomers such as methacrylonitrile, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid and their alkyl-esters containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical can be also used.

25 The diene rubbers used in copolymer (A.1) for making it impact resistant are: polybutadiene, polyisoprene, copolymers of butadiene and/or isoprene with styrene or with other monomers; polybutadiene is preferred.

The content of these dienic rubbers in the impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer is not higher than 20% by weight and preferably is comprised between 2 and 15% by weight.

In the impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer (A.2), the olefinic elastomer, which is the substrate on which the acrylic and vinyl aromatic monomers are in part grafted and in part mechanically adhered in the form of vinyl aromatic monomer-acrylic monomer copolymer is a rubbery copolymer, having a Mooney viscosity ranging from 10 to 150 ML 1+4 (100°C) (measured according to ASTM D 1646 - 80), of at least two different straight chain alpha-mono-olefins such as ethylene, propylene, butene-1, octene-1, and the like, with at least another copolymerizable monomer, generally a polyene, and typically a non-conjugated diene. Preferably, one of the alpha mono-olefins is ethylene together with another alpha mono-olefin having a longer chain. The weight ratio of the ethylene to the other alpha-mono-olefin in the rubbery copolymer is usually in the range of from 20/80 to 80/20. Particularly preferred copolymers are the ethylene-propylene-non-conjugated diene terpolymer in which the non-conjugated diene can be cyclic or acyclic such as: 5-methylene-2-norbornene, 5-ethylidene-2-norbornene, 5-isopropylidene-2-norbornene, 1,4-pentadiene, 1,4-hexadiene, 1,5-hexadiene, 1,4-heptadiene, 1,7,9-dodecatriene, methyl-1,5-pentadiene, 2,5-norbornadiene, cyclo-1,5-octadiene, dicyclopentadiene, tetrahydroindene, 5-methyltetrahydroindene, etc. The diene content ranges from about 5 to 20% by weight and, preferably, from 8 to 18% by weight of diene monomeric units in the rubbery terpolymer.

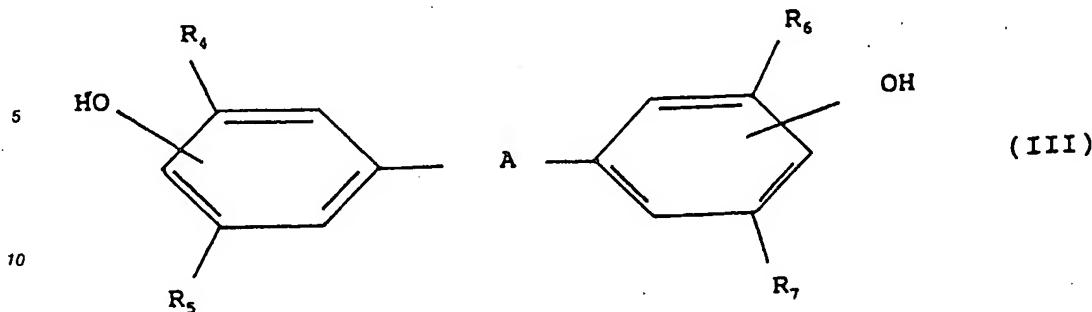
Particularly, a rubbery ethylene-propylene-non-conjugated diene (EPDM) terpolymer, having a Mooney viscosity ranging from 30 to 90 ML 1+4 (100°C) and a iodine number higher than 5, preferably ranging from 10 to 40, is preferred.

The impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymers (A.1) and (A.2) can be prepared according to any known suspension, mass-suspension or continuous mass polymerization process, provided that the above mentioned compounds are used as starting comonomers.

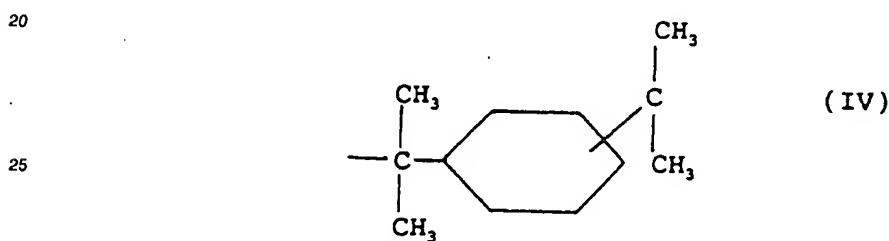
50 When the impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer (A.1) is prepared by an emulsion polymerization process, the content of the dienic rubber can be also higher than 20% and up to 65% by weight, with a content of acrylic monomer comprised between 2 and 35% by weight.

The halogen free aromatic polycarbonates which are suitable according to the present invention as component (B) are those based on bisphenols of general formula (III):

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15 wherein R₄, R₅, R₆, and R₇, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen or an alkyl radical containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and A represents a single bond, -O-, -CO-, -SO₂-, an alkylene radical containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkylidene radical containing from 2 to 6 carbon atoms, a cycloalkylene radical containing from 5 to 10 carbon atoms, a cycloalkylidene radical containing from 5 to 10 carbon atoms or the radical:



30 Examples of suitable bisphenols are, for example, hydroquinone, resorcinol, 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)-propane, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxy-3,5-dichlorophenyl)-propane, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxy-3,5-dibromophenyl)-propane and 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-cyclohexane.

Particularly preferred bisphenols are 2,2-bis-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane (bisphenol A), 2,2-bis-(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane and 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane.

The bisphenols of formula (III) are described, for example, in U.S.A. Patent Nos. 3,028,365; 2,999,835; 3,148,172; 3,275,601; 2,991,273; 3,271,367; 3,062,781 and 2,999,846 and can be prepared by methods known from the literature.

Polycarbonates containing in the chain units deriving from terephthalic and/or isophthalic acid can be utilized.

The aromatic polycarbonates may be produced in known manner, for example by transesterification in the melt from bisphenols and diphenyl carbonate or by two-phase interfacial process from bisphenol and phogene, as described in H. Schnell "Chemistry and Physics of Polycarbonates" Interscience Publishers, New York, 1964.

45 The aromatic polycarbonates may also be branched by the incorporation of small quantities, preferably from 0.05 to 2 moles percent, based on the diphenols used, of trifunctional or more than trifunctional compounds, particularly those containing three or more phenolic hydroxy groups.

The aromatic polycarbonates suitable to be used as component (B) in the compositions of the present invention have an average molecular weight of at least 10,000, more specifically ranging from 10,000 and 50 200,000 and preferably between 20,000 and 80,000, as determined by measurements of relative viscosity in CH₂Cl₂ at 25°C using a concentration of 0.5% by weight.

55 The aromatic polycarbonates containing the recurring units of formula (III) are well known in the art and are commercially available from different sources, for example: from General Electric Company, Mass., USA with the trade name LEXAN®; from ECP ENICHEM POLIMERI - Milano with the trade name SINVET®; from PROQUIGEL Brasil with the trade name DUROLON®, etc.

Any type of red phosphorus which is commercially available may be used as component (C) in the composition of the present invention.

Red phosphorus micro-encapsulated with a thermosetting resin or with an inorganic material is preferred for use safety reasons.

Representative examples of thermosetting resins are phenolic resins, epoxy resins and divinylbenzene-styrene copolymers. Representative examples of inorganic materials are titanium dioxide and silicated compounds.

One type of red phosphorus having the above-reported characteristics is known on the market under the trade-name of AMGARD CRP produced and sold by ALBRIGHT & WILSON LTD. - West Midlands - G.B., having average dimensions of between 20 and 30 micrometres.

The phosphorus containing organic compounds having the above-reported general formula (I) are products well known in the literature; for example described in: Ullmann, Enzyklopädie der Technischen Chemie, Vol. 18, pages 301 et seq., 1979; Houben-Weyl, Meth. d. org. Chem., Vol. 12/1 page 43, page - 136; Beilstein, Vol. 6, page 177.

Examples of phosphorus containing organic compounds of formula (I) suitable as component (D) in the compositions of the present invention, are triphenyl phosphate, tricresyl phosphate, diphenyl 2-ethylcresyl phosphate, tri(isopropylphenyl) phosphate, diphenyl methanephosphonate, diethyl phenyl-phosphonate, triphenylphosphine oxide or tricresylphosphine oxide; triphenyl phosphate is preferred. This later product is known on the market with the trade-name REOMOL^R TPP, produced and sold by CIBA GEIGY.

Any known anti-dripping agent can be used as component (E) in the flame-resistant thermoplastic compositions of the present invention.

A preferred anti-dripping agent is polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and particularly that in very fine powder form having particle dimensions lower than 20 micrometres and preferably from 5 to 0.1 micrometres. This polymer (PTFE) can be obtained by a dispersion polymerization process of tetrafluoroethylene, in the presence of organic and inorganic peroxidic catalysts, at pressures ranging from 10 to 200 Atm and at temperatures ranging from 0 to 200 °C.

Examples of PTFE known on the market are: those produced by E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Company and sold under the trade-name of TEFLON^R; those produced by Montefluos under the trade-name of ALGOFLON^R; those produced by I.C.I. under the trade-name of FLUON^R, etc.

These PTFE can be homopolymers or copolymers of PTFE with another copolymerizable monomer wherein the PTFE is present as the main constituent of the copolymer, preferably at least at a level of 80% by weight.

As above said, the compositions of the present invention can also include, in addition to the components (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E), a grafted copolymer consisting of an elastomeric core having a second order transition temperature lower than 10 °C and containing vinyl monomer chains grafted thereon.

The amount of this grafted polymer can range from 0 to 30, preferably from 1 to 10, parts with respect to 100 parts by weight of the mixture (A) and (B).

Said grafted polymer is generally a polymer of the core-shell type comprising an elastomeric core containing, grafted thereon, chains of vinyl monomers.

Preferably, the core-shell polymer comprises from approximatively 25 to approximatively 95% by weight of the elastomeric core and, correspondingly, from about 75 to about 5% by weight of vinyl monomer chains grafted thereon.

The elastomeric core has a second order glass transition temperature lower than 10 °C and can be polybutadiene, copolymers of butadiene with styrene, isoprene and/or with acrylonitrile, wherein the butadiene content is higher than 40% by moles, or acrylic rubber.

The vinyl monomers which are grafted on the elastomeric core can be acrylic acid derivatives or methacrylic acid derivatives, vinyl aromatic compounds, vinyl cyanide compounds and polyfunctional derivatives, either individually or in admixture with each other. Specific examples of said grafted vinyl monomers comprise methacrylic acid alkyl esters, in which the alkyl radical contains from 1 to 16 carbon atoms, preferably methyl methacrylate; esters of methacrylic acid with polyfunctional alcohols such as 1,3-butylene glycol dimethacrylate and trimethylol-propane trimethacrylate, allyl methacrylate and/or diallyl methacrylate; vinyl aromatic compounds such as styrene, vinyl toluene, alpha-methyl styrene, halogenated styrene, vinyl naphthalene or di-vinyl benzene; styrene being particularly preferred; vinyl cyanide compounds such as acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, alpha-halogenated acrylonitriles, acrylonitrile being particularly preferred; maleic acid and anhydride.

These vinyl monomers can be used individually or in admixture thereof.

The elastomeric core of the grafted copolymer, used in the compositions of the present invention, has preferably a second order transition temperature lower than -10 °C and even lower than -50 °C and a cross-linking degree higher than 50% and up to 99% by weight (gel content), determined by extraction.

The grafted copolymer used in the compositions of the present invention has preferably an elastomer content higher than 35% and up to 95% by weight.

Said grafted copolymers can be prepared by means of any known method such as bulk polymerization, suspension polymerization, bulk-suspension polymerization, solution polymerization or emulsion polymerization.

A typical example of grafted copolymer to be used in the subject composition can be a three-step polymer having a rubber-like core based on butadiene, a second step of polymerized styrene and a final step, or shell, of polymerized methyl methacrylate and 1,3-butylene-glycol dimethacrylate.

The above grafted polymers are well known on the market and they are available from a great number of manufacturers such as, for example, from Rhom & Haas Company, Philadelphia, USA, under the trade-name PARALOID® EXL 2600, EXL 2300, EXL 3600 and EXL 3300 or from Kaneka, Belgium, under the trade-name KANEACE® M 511, and so on.

The mixtures of the present invention can be prepared by any conventional mixing method.

The mixing is generally carried out in the molten state, previous a premixing at room temperature, in known mixing units, such as single and twin-screw extruders, Banbury mixer, mixing rolls etc. at a temperature comprised between 220 and 300 °C.

The compositions may further other additives intimately incorporated therein, such as stabilizing agents, anti-acid agent, plasticizers, lubricants, flow agents, antistatic agents, dyes, pigments, glass fibres or other inorganic fillers, etc. to give special characteristics to the material.

The compositions of the present invention are easy to be processed and exhibit a combination of properties which make them suitable to be utilized for the preparation of articles endowed with a high tenacity along with a high thermoresistance. These compositions are consequently applied in the fields of the household electric apparatuses, of electronics and technical articles in general in the form of films, sheets, strips, bands, rods, boxes, pans, containers and the like. The compositions can be used to produce foamed articles by means of conventional techniques.

For a better understanding of the present invention and to reduce it to practice, a few illustrative but do not limitative examples are given hereinafter.

In the examples, all parts and percentages are given by weight, if not differently indicated.

In the examples, for measuring the characteristics of the compositions of the present invention, the following methods were used:

Flame-resistant properties

The inflammability was determined according to the "Underwriters' Laboratory" method called UL-94 V described in "Standard For Tests for Flammability of Plastic Materials For Parts in Devices and Appliances" 3 Edition, January 28, 1980, on test samples having dimensions 127x12.7x1.59 mm (5"x0.5"x0.0625").

Mechanical properties

The IZOD resilience with notch was determined at 23 °C, according to ASTM D 256, on test samples having a thickness of 3.2 mm.

Thermal properties

The VICAT B softening temperature (5 kg in oil) was determined, according to ISO 306, with an increase in temperature of 120 °C/hour.

Rheological properties

The Melt-Index (M.F.I.) was determined according to ASTM D 1238, at 240 °C and 5 kg.

EXAMPLES 1-10

The following components were blended, at room temperature, in a rotating drum mixer:

- an impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer (ABS) consisting of 67.5% by weight of styrene, 10.5% by weight of polybutadienic rubber and 22% by weight of acrylonitrile, in the quantities shown in Table I;

- SINVET® (PC) polycarbonate produced and sold by ECP ENICHEM POLIMERI, in the quantities shown in Table I;
 - PARALOID® EXL 2600 rubber consisting of 60% by weight of a core of polybutadiene rubber on which chains of styrene-methylmethacrylate copolymer (ratio 1:1) are grafted in an amount of 40%, in the quantities shown in Table I;
 - red phosphorus, produced and sold by Albright & Wilson Ltd. under the trade-name of AMGARD® CRP, in the quantities shown in Table I;
 - triphenylphosphate, produced and sold by Ciba Geigy under the trade-name of REOMOL® TPP, in the quantities shown in Table I.
- 10 The mixtures thus obtained were dried at 100°C for 4 hours and extruded by means of a BAKER & PERKINS twin-screw extruder, with degassing, at a temperature of 260°C.
By cutting the strips at the exit of the extruder, pellets were obtained which were dried for 4 hours at 100°C.
To determine their characteristics, the pellets were injection moulded at a temperature of 250-270°C on
15 a Battenfeld 350 CD PLUS press to obtain test samples with dimensions required by the regulations.
The properties of the test samples thus obtained are shown in Table I below.

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TABLE I

COMPOSITION	AMOUNT	EXAMPLES								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ABS	8 b.w.	40	40	30	30	25	15	15	15	15
PC	"	60	60	70	70	75	85	85	85	85
PARALOID®	Parts	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Red pho-	by weight	7	5.5	7	2.1	1.6	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.1
sphorus										
Triphenyl										
phosphate										
total										
phosphorus										
PROPERTIES	UNITS									
UL 94 V	VO	VO	VO	VO	VO	VO	VO	VO	VO	VO
IZOD	J/m	100	150	110	350	340	480	500	600	630
VICAT	°C	116	92	95.5	106.5	96.5	87.5	139.5	120.5	113.5
M.F.I.	g/10'	5	18	14	16	24	33	3	12	16

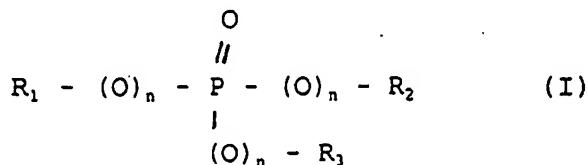
55 Claims

1. A flame-retardant, halogen-free, thermoplastic composition, classifiable under VO rating according to the UL 94 V test, comprising: a halogen-free impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer, consisting of a

vinyl aromatic monomer, an acrylic monomer and a rubber; a halogen-free aromatic polycarbonate, and red phosphorus.

2. The thermoplastic composition according to claim 1, comprising:

- 5 (A) from 70 to 5 parts by weight of an impact resistant, halogen-free, vinyl aromatic copolymer, consisting of a vinyl aromatic monomer, an acrylic monomer and a rubber;
- (B) from 30 to 95 parts by weight of a halogen-free aromatic polycarbonate;
- (C) from 0.1 to 10 parts by weight, with respect to 100 parts by weight of the mixture of the two (A) and (B) resins, of red phosphorus;
- 10 (D) from 0 to 15 parts by weight, with respect to 100 parts by weight of the mixture of the two (A) and (B) resins, of a phosphorus containing organic compound of the formula:



20 wherein R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are, independently from each other, an alkyl radical containing from 1 to 8 carbon atoms or an aryl radical or an optionally alkylsubstituted aryl radical containing from 6 to 20 carbon atoms, and n represents 0 or 1; and,

(E) optionally, an anti-dripping agent.

25 3. The thermoplastic composition according to claim 1 or 2, containing in addition a grafted polymer consisting of an elastomeric core having a glass transition temperature of the second order lower than 10°C and containing chains of vinyl aromatic monomers grafted thereon.

30 4. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of the impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer (A) ranges from 10 to 50% by weight and that of the aromatic polycarbonate (B) ranges from 90 to 50 % by weight, with respect to the sum of the two (A) and (B) resins.

35 5. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of the total phosphorus, given by the sum of the phosphorus both in the free status and in the combined form, is not higher than 10 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the mixture of the two (A) and (B) resins.

40 6. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of the anti-dripping agent is comprised between 0.05 and 1 part by weight, with respect to 100 parts of the two (A) and (B) resins.

7. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims, comprising:

- 45 (A) from 10 to 50% by weight of a halogen-free impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer;
- (B) from 90 to 50% by weight of a halogen-free polycarbonate;
- (C) from 0.1 to 7 parts by weight, with respect to 100 parts by weight of (A) + (B), of red phosphorus;
- (D) optionally, from 5 to 15 parts by weight, with respect to 100 parts by weight of (A) + (B), of phosphorus containing organic compound of general formula (I);
- 50 (E) optionally, from 0.05 to 1 part by weight, with respect to 100 parts by weight of (A) + (B), of an anti-dripping agent, and
- (F) from 0 to 30 parts by weight, with respect to 100 parts by weight of (A) + (B), of the grafted polymer.

55 8. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer (A) contains from 2 to 35% by weight of an acrylic monomer, a dienic rubber in an amount not higher than 20%, preferably comprised between 2 and 15%, by weight,

and a vinyl aromatic monomer.

9. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims from 1 to 7, wherein the impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer containing from 2 to 35 % by weight of an acrylic monomer, a dienic rubber in an amount higher than 20% and up to 65% by weight and a vinyl aromatic monomer.
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10. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims from 1 to 7, wherein the impact resistant vinyl aromatic copolymer comprises from 2 to 35% by weight of an acrylic monomer, from 5 to 50%, preferably from 15 to 30%, by weight of an olefinic elastomer; and from 93 to 15%,
10 preferably from 83 to 35%, by weight of a vinyl aromatic monomer, the sum of these monomers being equal to 100% by weight.
11. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the acrylic
15 monomer is acrylonitrile.
12. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the vinyl aromatic monomer is styrene.
15
13. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims 8, 9, 11 and 12, wherein
20 the dienic rubber is polybutadiene.
14. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims 10, 11 and 12, wherein the
olefinic elastomer is a rubbery ethylene-propylene-non-conjugated diene terpolymer having a Mooney
25 viscosity ranging from 30 to 90 ML 1+4 (100 °C) and a iodine number higher than 5, preferably ranging from 10 to 40.
15. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the red phosphorus is microencapsulated with a thermosetting resin or with an inorganic material.
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16. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims from 2 to 15, wherein the phosphorus containing organic compound of formula (I) of claim 2 is triphenyl phosphate.
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17. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims from 3 to 16, wherein the amount of the grafted polymer is comprised between 1 and 10 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the mixture (A) + (B).
18. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the grafted polymer is a coreshell comprising from 25 to 95% by weight of elastomeric core and from about 75 to about 5% by weight of vinyl monomer chains grafted thereon.
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19. The thermoplastic composition according to claim 18, wherein the elastomeric core is selected from the group consisting of polybutadiene, copolymers of butadiene with styrene, isoprene and/or with acrylonitrile, wherein the butadiene content is higher than 40% by moles, and acrylic rubber; and the vinyl monomers are selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid derivatives, methacrylic acid derivatives, vinyl aromatic compounds, vinyl cyanide compounds, polyfunctional derivatives and mixture thereof.
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20. The thermoplastic composition according to anyone of the preceding claims, containing in addition stabilizing agents, anti-acid agent, plasticizers, lubricants, flow agents, antistatic agents, dyes, pigments, glass fibres and/or other inorganic fillers.
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